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THE WORLD'S BEST
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FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NATIONAL NEWS
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Get set to grow a garden
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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK

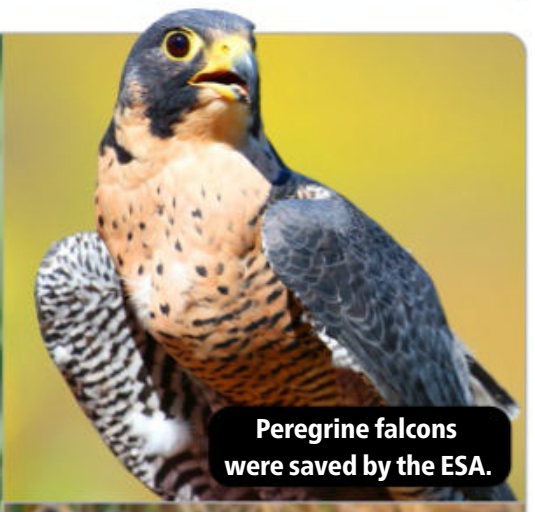
THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

SUCCESS STORY

America marks 50 years of the Endangered Species Act p2

DID YOU KNOW?
A new study found that 26 Australian animal species have recovered and are no longer threatened.

The American alligator was upgraded from endangered to threatened in 1987.


Peregrine falcons were saved by the ESA.

Black-footed ferrets were saved but are still endangered.

Endangered Species Act marks 50 years

The US government and environmental groups are marking the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The landmark law is one of the world's most effective efforts to reverse the population decline of endangered and threatened species. It has saved 99% of the animals and plants on its list from extinction.

What is the ESA?

The ESA, overseen by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service, protects animals and plants at risk of dying out. When the population of a species declines enough to be considered endangered or threatened, it is added to the ESA's list and the US government is required to create a plan for its recovery. The plan can include protecting the species' habitat and blocking activities, such as logging and drilling, that would disrupt its recovery. The ESA gives states money to help cover the costs of protecting listed species.

Florida panthers have rebounded.

How did the law come about?

In the late 1960s, environmentalists succeeded in convincing the US Congress to pass a law that would allow the government to buy land for the purpose of conserving native fish and wildlife. In 1969, Congress built on the law by mandating the creation of a list of endangered animals. The ESA expanded on these early laws by adding protection for plants. Congress passed the bill on December 27, 1973, and President Richard Nixon signed it into law the next day, saying it would "protect an irreplaceable part of our national heritage."

What are some success stories?

The bald eagle, a symbol of America, was one of the first species protected by the ESA and is celebrated as one of its greatest successes. By 1963, when the population had dropped to 417 nesting pairs due to habitat destruction, illegal hunting, and the contamination of its food source, the species was at risk of extinction. After being listed as endangered and benefiting from the ESA's protections, the population grew and the bird was taken off the list in 2007. Now there are more than 71,000 nesting pairs. Other success stories include the El Segundo blue butterfly, green sea turtle, and Southern sea otter (shown with the bald eagle on this week's cover), the gray wolf and grizzly bear, and the animals on this page.

What are the ESA's future priorities?

While applauding the ESA's successes so far, wildlife experts and environmental groups say the law must be protected from budget cuts and strengthened going forward. Experts have also said urgent steps must be taken to help many specific animals. These steps include placing the California spotted owl on the endangered list for the first time and moving the northern long-eared bat, which faces extinction because of a disease called white-nose syndrome, from threatened to endangered. The USFWS recently announced $778,000 in funding to help six American bumble bee species, two of which are endangered and four that are facing major population loss.

What will happen this year?

Events and celebrations include a series of murals that will be unveiled across the US, an awards reception honoring people working to protect threatened and endangered species, and exhibits in museums and galleries. Zoos, aquariums, schools, and libraries will host events to celebrate the ESA's anniversary and Endangered Species Day, which is on May 19 this year. The Endangered Species Coalition is inviting students to submit artwork for a nationwide project honoring the ESA. (See the editor's note on page 28 for more details.)

UK experiences produce shortage

The UK is facing a wide-scale shortage of fruits and vegetables, including tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, and peppers. Farmers are struggling to keep up with demand, and some grocery chains are rationing (limiting) purchases to two or three items per customer.

Government officials said extreme weather has caused the shortages. In the winter, the UK usually imports 95% of its tomatoes and 90% of its lettuce from Spain and North African countries such as Morocco. But unusually cold weather, flooding, and storms in these locations have disrupted harvests and shipments.

Meanwhile, crop growth in the UK has been affected by abnormally high temperatures, lack of rain, and the rising costs of farming supplies. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is also causing gas and energy prices to increase. On February 23, the UK's top environment official, Therese Coffey, said the situation could last two to four more weeks. However, some farmers said shortages are likely to last until May.

SEEING IN SPACE
The James Webb Space Telescope is expected to function for at least 5 to 10 years.

An image of galaxies taken by the James Webb Space Telescope

Huge galaxies stun scientists

In a surprise discovery, the James Webb Space Telescope spotted what appear to be six massive galaxies that formed during the early years of the universe. Calling the galaxies "monsters," scientists said they are far bigger and more mature than they thought possible—and could challenge their understanding of how galaxies develop.

The Webb Telescope, which launched in December 2021, is the most powerful telescope ever put into space. It can detect infrared light, which is mostly invisible to humans. The Webb can see infrared light emitted by objects in space more than 13 billion years ago.

The recently discovered galaxies date back to about 500 to 700 million years after the Big Bang (an explosion that formed the universe), when our universe was still young. The team that made the discovery said most "baby" galaxies from that era are small and still growing, with blue stars. The newly found galaxies, however, appear to be billions of times heavier than the Sun, and one of them may be as much as 100 billion times heavier. The new galaxies have red stars, which are much older than blue stars.

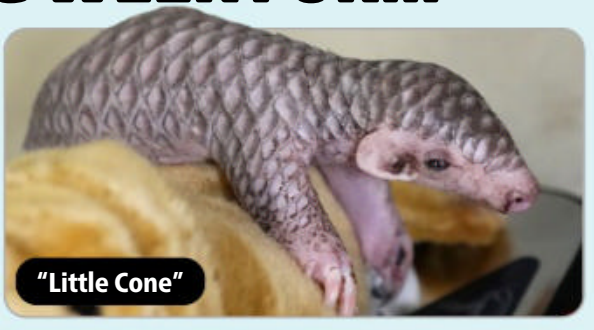
The researchers were so surprised by the findings that at first they thought they had made a mistake. Further research is needed to confirm that the findings are galaxies and whether they are as big and old as they seem. If they are, said Joel Leja, a professor at Penn State and an author of the study, "it calls the whole picture of early galaxy formation into question."

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A RECORD SALE

A rookie card for pro basketball player Sabrina Ionescu sold for $10,800, setting the record for the highest price paid for a WNBA card. Ionescu, a guard for the New York Liberty, was the top pick in the 2020 draft and an All-Star in 2022.

The card



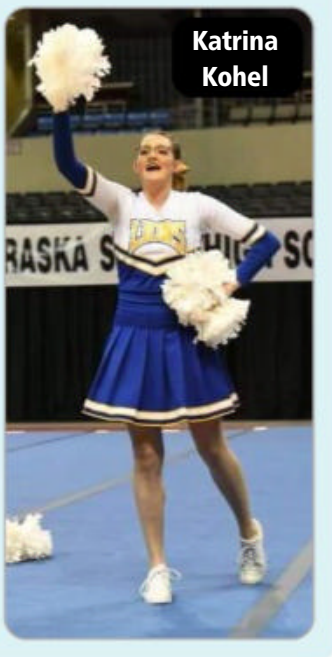
"Little Cone"

WELCOMING A BABY

The Prague Zoo in the Czech Republic announced the arrival of the first Chinese pangolin ever born in Europe. The critically endangered animal is native to Asia. The female baby hasn't been named yet but is being called "Little Cone" due to her shape. Zookeepers described her birth as a "huge joy."

A BRAVE PERFORMANCE

Katrina Kohel, age 17, made national headlines after she competed solo at the Nebraska state cheerleading tournament. Kohel's teammates had quit the squad, but she didn't want to drop out, so she reworked her routine in a few days. "It felt amazing," she said.



Katrina Kohel

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (6); NINTENDO; JOE PAINTER, COURTESY OF THE HARTLEY DODGE FOUNDATION; ON THIS PAGE: NASA/ESA/CSA; GETTY IMAGES; PWCC; AP; DONNA WIEDEBURG; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

READY TO LEARN
The average start time at US schools is between 8:00 and 8:15 in the morning.

Spending time with others can boost your mood.

If you feel worried

Talking to a trusted adult can be a helpful way to relieve feelings of depression or anxiety. It's normal to not want to burden anyone, but people who care will want to support you. They may help you identify activities that make you feel better, such as getting enough sleep and exercise, and connect you with a care provider.

Schools get funding for mental health

The Department of Education (DOE) announced that it has awarded grants (funding) to US public schools to strengthen their mental health programs. The grants are part of the largest investment in school-based mental health programs the nation has ever made, the DOE said.

What is happening?

More than $188 million is being given to 170 schools in more than 30 states to increase access to mental health services. The funding comes from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) that Congress (branch of government that makes laws) passed in 2022. On the day the grants were announced, US Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona participated in a town hall on the mental health of young people at a high school in Virginia.

Why is this happening now?

A new Pew Research Center survey found that the top concern of US parents is the mental health of their children. During the pandemic, more than 33% of high school students reported experiencing poor mental health. But even before the pandemic, "youth rates of anxiety and depression and other mental health challenges were on the rise," said Cardona. "Too many students suffered in silence." Research shows that children learn more and develop stronger relationships with others when they have access to social and emotional care.

What will the funding do?

The grants will enable school districts to hire about 5,400 mental health workers, such as psychologists and counselors. The money will also cover the costs of providing additional training to about 5,500 existing school workers. In addition, the program includes funding to increase the diversity of providers to help students of all cultures and backgrounds feel understood. "These investments will allow more students to access mental health support through trained professionals they can trust," the DOE said.

What will happen next?

School districts that receive funds will begin to spend the money to improve their mental health programs. Over the next five years, the DOE will distribute a total of $1 billion to public schools through the BSCA, and schools will have multiple opportunities to apply for these additional rounds of funding.

WORD OF THE WEEK

DANGER

This year, the US is marking the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. "Endangered" means at risk of harm and extinction. The original meaning of "danger," in the Middle Ages, was "power," particularly that of a lord and master. At its heart is the Latin dominus**, "lord." From there the word shifted to mean "power to harm."**

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

March 4, 1837

The city of Chicago is established

On March 4, 1837, the city of Chicago, Illinois, was incorporated (established) after state lawmakers voted in favor of enacting a charter to form the city's government. At the time, Chicago had about 4,000 residents. It reached a population of 1 million by 1890, making it one of the nation's fastest-growing cities. Today, it is the third largest US city, with nearly 3 million people.

A view of Chicago

Winter storms blast across US

Beginning February 21, winter storms caused major disruptions in several regions of the country. Los Angeles, California, was under a blizzard warning for the first time in more than 30 years, and 6.5 feet of snow fell in parts of Southern California. Freezing rain and ice caused more than 772,000 households in Michigan to lose power. Thousands of flights were canceled in the Midwest, and schools were closed in Nevada, Arizona, and other states.

Balloon ban in California town

Laguna Beach, California, has banned the sale and public use of balloons. The law, which goes into effect in 2024, is meant to stop balloons from harming the environment. Thousands of balloons end up on beaches each year, where they can be deadly to animals. Maryland, Virginia, and Hawaii have banned intentional balloon releases, and other states and cities are considering similar laws.

Drinks can be labeled as milk

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, US agency that monitors food safety) has proposed rules that allow producers of oat, soy, and almond milks to continue labeling their drinks as "milk." Dairy producers have called on the FDA to allow milk only from dairy sources to be labeled milk. The FDA said customers can distinguish between plant-based and dairy milk without confusion.

Rare portrait of Lincoln unveiled

The painting of President Abraham Lincoln

The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, located in Washington, DC, has unveiled a life-size painting of President Abraham Lincoln. The painting is one of only three full-length portraits of Lincoln known to exist. It was recently restored after hanging in a small government building in New Jersey for about 80 years.

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States. He led the nation during the Civil War (1861–1865) and issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 to end slavery. In 1865, he was assassinated (killed for political reasons).

The Dutch artist W.F.K. Travers completed the 9-foot-tall painting shortly after Lincoln's death. Historians believe Lincoln posed for it in 1864. Using oil paints on canvas, Travers depicted Lincoln standing in front of a bust (type of sculpture) of President George Washington and the painting *Washington Crossing the Delaware* by Emanuel Leutze. Lincoln is holding a copy of the US Constitution (highest US law), and on the desk is a draft of the Constitution's 13th Amendment, which made slavery illegal.

Travers sold the portrait to a diplomat, and it first appeared publicly at an exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. It later hung in the US Capitol building before being sold to the Rockefellers, one of the world's wealthiest families. It eventually ended up in the town hall in Madison, New Jersey.

DID YOU KNOW?
Abraham Lincoln's height was 6 feet, 4 inches, making him the tallest US President.

In 2021, a thick layer of varnish (a clear hard coating) was removed and the painting was restored. The Hartley Dodge Foundation, founded by a Rockefeller family member, has loaned the painting to the National Portrait Gallery. It will be on display there for five years.

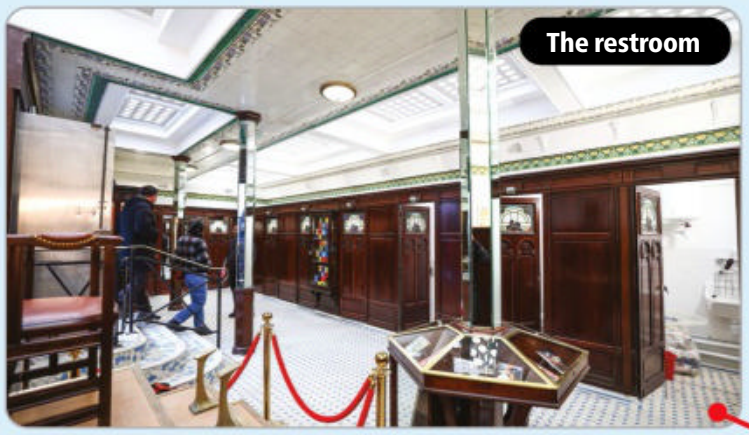
Museum staff said they plan to do research on the artwork while it is at the gallery. "More than just being an amazing view of Lincoln," said National Portrait Gallery historian Mindy Farmer, "it's the story of American history."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Loose goats wander into Target store in Texas" *UPI*

AP (2); GETTY IMAGES (4); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

Around the world


The restroom

Paris, France
Historic public bathroom reopens

The Lavatory de la Madeleine, a public restroom in Paris, has reopened after an extensive renovation. When it opened in 1905, it was the first public bathroom in France. It was closed in 2011 after falling into disrepair, but it has been refurbished with high-quality materials, including stained-glass windows, mosaics, and mahogany doors on the stalls. People who want to use the bathroom will have to pay about $1.80.

Voting in Nigeria

Nigeria
Presidential election takes place

On February 25, people across Nigeria voted to choose the country's next president. There were 18 candidates competing to replace the current president, Muhammadu Buhari, who has spent eight years in power. The issues the new president will face include the rising cost of food, a lack of jobs, and poverty. The results of the election are expected to be announced in early March.

A drawing of the cathedral

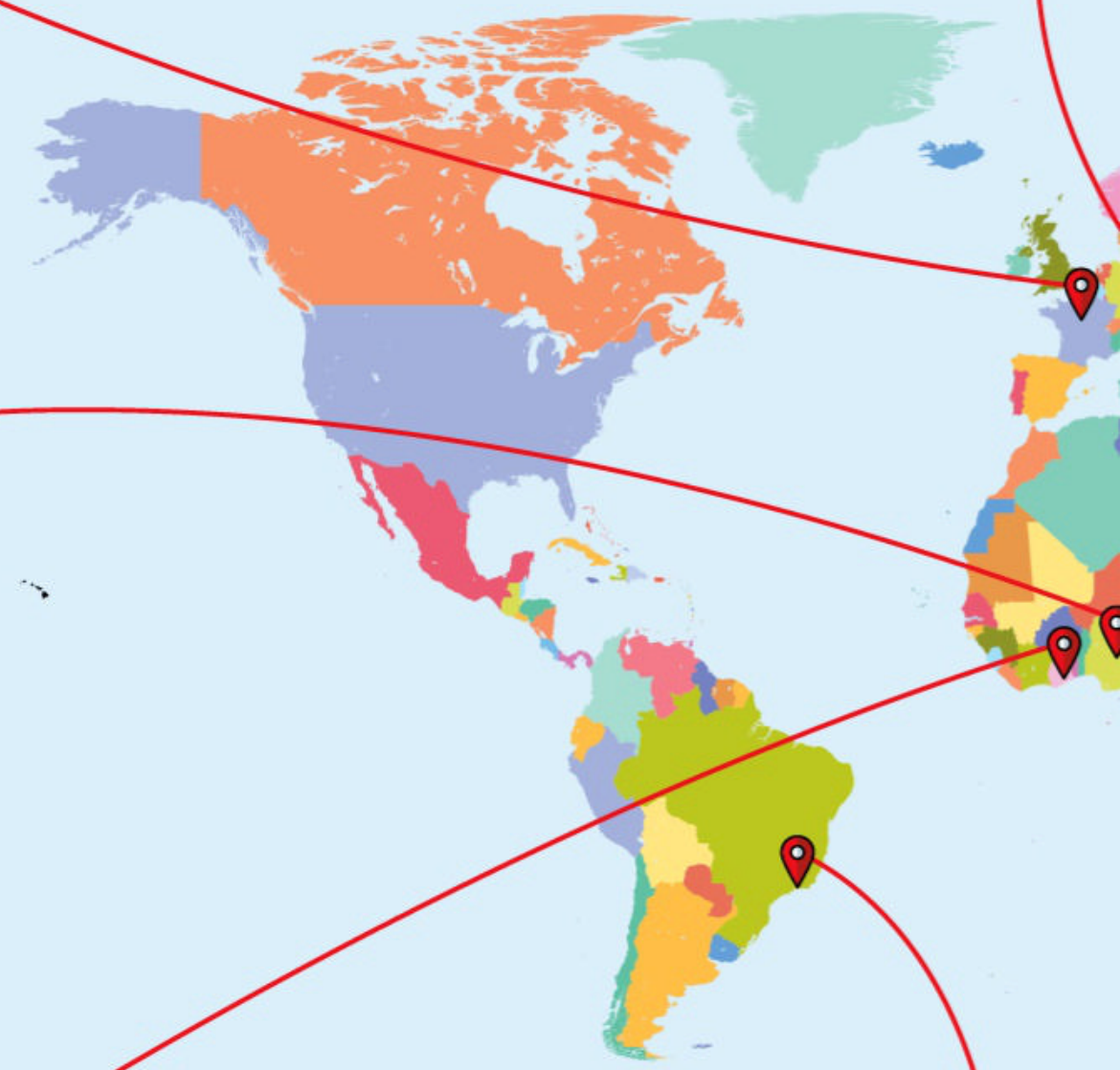
Accra, Ghana
Building of cathedral criticized

Ghana's president, Nana Akufo-Addo, is being criticized for an expensive cathedral project when many citizens are facing financial hardships and the government is short of money. More than $58 million has been spent so far on the National Cathedral, which will include a museum and gardens. Some estimate the finished project could exceed $1 billion.

Austria
Children sue for climate action

A group of 12 Austrian children are taking their government to court, saying it needs to take stronger action on climate change to protect young people from the effects of global warming. The lawyer representing the group said the case is based on a similar claim in Germany that led to changes in that country's climate law.

Young people protest in Vienna.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Carnival returns

Rio de Janeiro's Carnival returned in full splendor for the first time since the pandemic. The world's largest carnival was expected to attract 46 million people and bring in close to $1 billion in tourism income. The festivities, held February 17–22, featured colorful costumes, floats, and more than 600 official street parties called "Blocos." The main attraction took place at Sambadrome, where Brazil's best samba schools (dancing, marching, and drumming clubs) compete.

A woman in costume at Carnival

GETTY IMAGES (7); ALAMY; NATIONAL CATHEDRAL OF GHANA; REUTERS

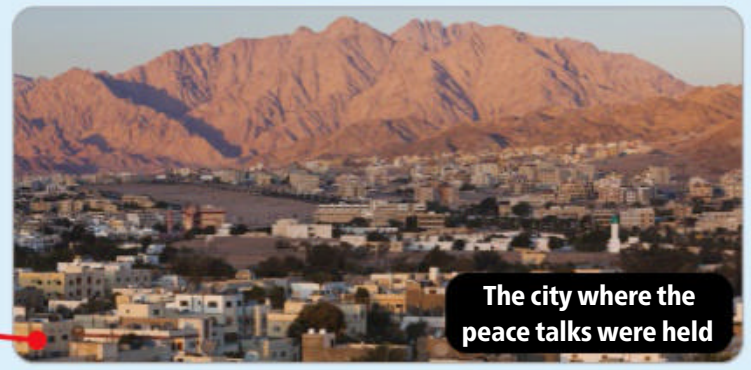
Around the world

Stora Ekon, Sweden
Spices found on shipwreck

Researchers found the remains of a "royal medieval pantry" on a shipwreck in the Baltic Sea that dates back 500 years. The ship belonged to King Hans of Denmark and Norway. The finds include spices such as ginger and cinnamon. Experts said the spices are well preserved because there is little oxygen, which causes decay, at the bottom of the sea.

Istanbul, Turkey
Fans give toys to earthquake victims

On February 26, fans of Besiktas, a soccer team in Istanbul, threw thousands of stuffed toys onto the field in a symbol of solidarity with children affected by the recent earthquakes in Turkey. The game was paused to mark the time when the first earthquake struck on February 6. Fans then threw large stuffed animals, toys, scarves, and hats to be given as gifts to children "to cheer them up," the team said in a statement.

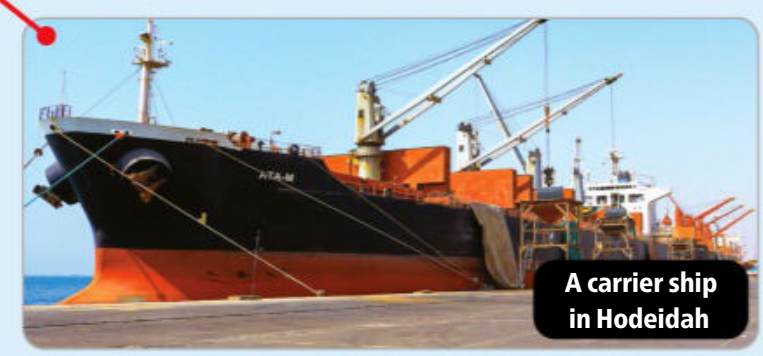


Aqaba, Jordan
Israel and Palestine discuss peace

Israeli and Palestinian leaders, with representatives from the US and Egypt, met on February 26 in Aqaba, Jordan, to discuss increasing violence in Israel. The last time a similar meeting took place between Israelis and Palestinians was in 2012, also in Jordan. Both sides have pledged to work to prevent further violence. The countries attending the meeting also agreed to a joint civilian committee to help improve the Palestinian economy.

Kenya
First Lady urges aid

US First Lady Jill Biden made a five-day visit to East Africa, starting in Namibia and ending in Kenya. She spoke with residents about the devastating impact of the region's long-term drought (severe lack of rain) and the need to empower women and young people. Biden said the US has contributed 70% of the funds sent to East Africa to provide relief from the drought and appealed to other countries to give more.



Hodeidah, Yemen
Ship raises hopes of resolving conflict

A cargo ship carrying containers of food and other goods has docked at Yemen's port of Hodeidah for the first time since at least 2016. The nation has been torn apart by civil war (a conflict between different groups in a country) for many years, leaving millions of people in need of help. Officials say the ship docking is a crucial step toward resolving the conflict.

Should we be rewilding more land?

Land that is given back to nature can thrive, but some say the process has risks.

What you need to know

- **Rewilding is the process of letting developed land return to its natural state, often by putting animals or plants back into a habitat.**
- **Scientists say rewilding can help slow climate change and save plant and animal species from dying out.**
- **One plan calls for people to rewild about 865 million acres of land around the world by the year 2030.**
- **In the US, experts hope to rewild land owned by the government and reintroduce gray wolves and beavers.**

Bison are being reintroduced in the western US.

DID YOU KNOW?
There are more than 1,300 threatened or endangered plant and animal species in the US.

Every day in the US, 6,000 acres of open land are cleared for farming, housing, roads, and other purposes. Many scientists say the more open land we lose, the more we're harming the planet. Untouched forests, grasslands, and waterways provide wildlife habitats, clean water, reduced air pollution, and other benefits. In order to create more wilderness, efforts are underway around the world to return animals and plants to certain areas, from bison and wildflowers in the US to cheetahs in India. But some people say rewilding is an expensive, risky process that might not work and could cause harm. What do you think? Should we be rewilding more land?

Yes—it helps slow climate change

Climate change is an urgent problem. Rewilding helps by restoring forests that absorb harmful gases like carbon dioxide. Rewilding can also prevent species from dying out and reset a natural ecosystem (living things in an area that affect one another). For example, gray wolves were reintroduced in Yellowstone National Park in 1995, after being hunted to extinction there. The wolves reduced the booming population of elks, which gave the plants the elks ate a chance to thrive—and serve as habitat for animals like beavers and birds. Rewilding also provides jobs for workers and scientists and attracts visitors to an area.

No—there are too many risks

If rewilding takes back land that's being used to grow or produce food, that could hurt farmers and cause food prices to rise. The cost of food is already hitting record highs right now. And there's no guarantee that putting wildlife back into its natural environment when it hasn't been there for a long time will be a good thing. The rewilded animals might not survive. They could also threaten other animal and plant species, including nearby farm animals like sheep and cows. That would be a big problem for farmers and people who live nearby. Rewilding requires careful monitoring, which is a lot of work and costly.

YES Three reasons why we should be rewilding more land

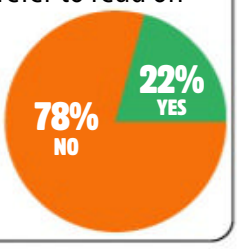
1. **Rewilding is a great way to put plants and trees back into nature. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a gas that causes climate change.**
2. **Entire ecosystems can be repaired, which can stop many species from dying out.**
3. **Rewilding creates jobs in areas such as science, conservation, caring for the landscape, education, and tourism.**

NO Three reasons why we should not be rewilding more land

1. **Rewilding can affect crops and food production, which would be a problem at a time of rising food prices.**
2. **There's no guarantee rewilding will work the way we want it to, and the rewilded plants and animals might not survive.**
3. **Reintroducing predators puts other species at risk, including farm animals and people.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week we asked whether e-books are better than real books. You prefer to read on paper: 78% of you said no, while 22% of you said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think we should be rewilding more land or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly and objectively in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on the page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Launching the future

Legendary director Spike Lee is giving back to aspiring young filmmakers.

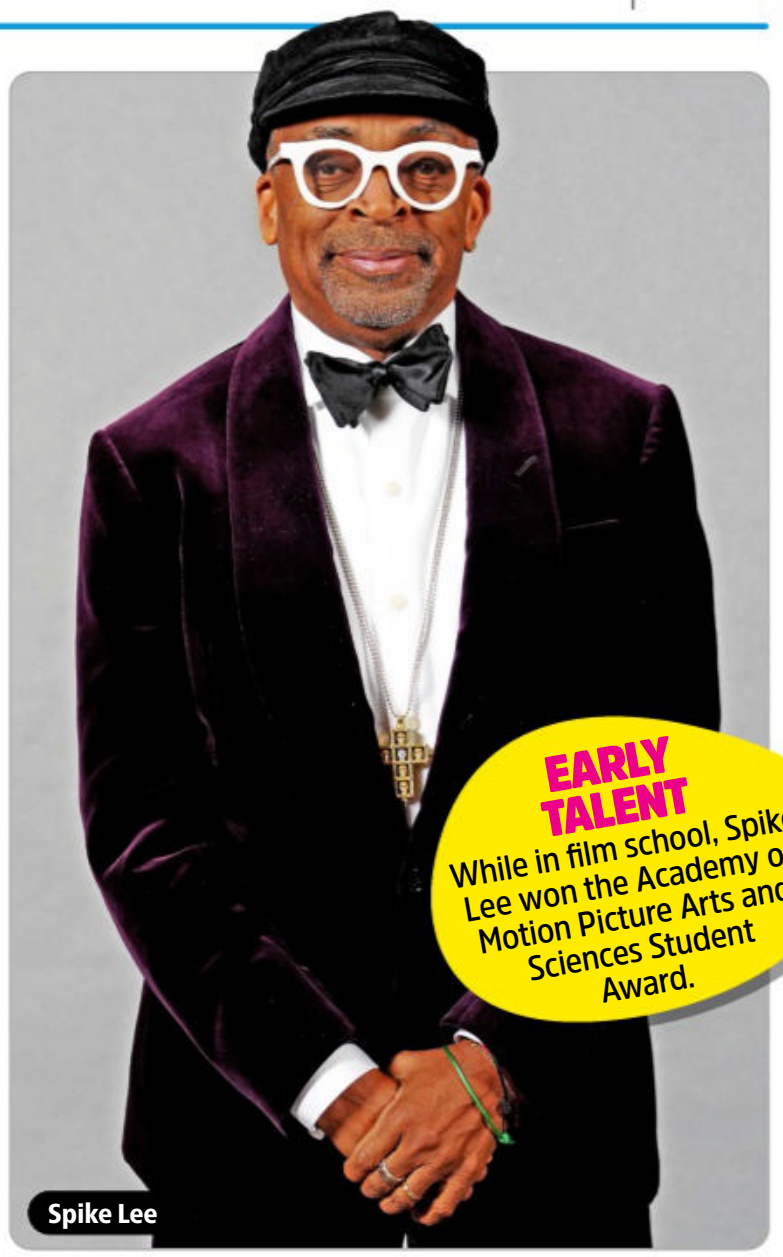
In Spike Lee's award-winning filmmaking career, he has made boundary-pushing movies that start conversations about race, politics, and class. Now, with his new fellowship program, he is helping to jump-start the careers of a new generation of Black filmmakers .

Lee, age 65, grew up in Brooklyn, New York. Like his father and grandfather, he attended Morehouse College in Georgia, an HBCU (historically Black colleges and universities). Lee's mother and grandmother also attended an HBCU, Spelman College. Lee later earned a graduate degree from New York University's prestigious film school.

Lee has received some of the film industry's highest honors, earning both an Oscar and an honorary Academy Award for lifetime achievement in film. His movies—such as *Do the Right Thing* and *Malcolm X* (a biographical film about the minister and civil rights activist Malcolm X)—explore themes surrounding racial discrimination and the Black experience in America.

The official seal of Morehouse College

This new fellowship, called the Spike Fellows program, is a partnership between Lee and a talent firm called the Gersh Agency. It will help Black film students secure mentorships, internships, and jobs, as well as provide relief from student debt. The program began in January with a class of five "Spike Fellows," as they are called. In a statement announcing the launch of the fellowship, Lee said the program is about action. "As my elders often told me, 'Deeds not words,' " he said.



Spike Lee

EARLY TALENT
While in film school, Spike Lee won the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Student Award.

Major music move

Gustavo Dudamel will be leaving his post as head of the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 2026 to become the music director of the New York Philharmonic, the nation's oldest symphony orchestra. The renowned Venezuelan conductor, age 42, will be its first Hispanic leader. He will have led the Los Angeles Philharmonic for 17 years and has collaborated with famous artists such as Billie Eilish and Beyoncé. Speaking to *The New York Times* about his new role, Dudamel said, "It's like opening a new door and building a new house."

Gustavo Dudamel

Barbara Brandon-Croft

Cartoonist looks back

For decades, cartoonist Barbara Brandon-Croft has worked to shape her industry. With her series *Where I'm Coming From*, she was the first Black woman with a mainstream syndicated (published in multiple places) comic strip. It debuted in 1989 and depicted life in the US through the eyes of nine Black female characters, providing a woman's perspective on politics, raising a family, and more. Now she is reflecting on her work in a new book, *Where I'm Coming From: Selected Strips, 1991–2005*, which features her comics as well as essays on her achievements.

OVERHEARD

"The best sign of a good person is the ability to laugh at yourself."

British actress Florence Pugh, age 27, on a lesson learned from her family. Pugh has starred in films such as *Little Women* and *Black Widow* and voiced Goldilocks in *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*.

GETTY IMAGES (3); MOREHOUSE COLLEGE; HIROKO MASUIKE/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

DID YOU KNOW? Wolf howls can be heard up to nine miles away.

Huskies still have the instinct to howl.

Dogs with super skills

Scientists in Finland tested more than 1,000 dogs from 13 different breeds to see how their abilities to think and follow directions varied. They found that Malinois and Labrador retrievers were among the best at following human directions. Border collies were good at solving problems related to space and movement.

A Malinois

Some dogs howl like their wolf ancestors

Wolves often howl to mark their territories and let other wolves know where they are. According to a new study, dog breeds that are more closely related to wolves are more likely to respond to a wolf's howl by howling back. The researchers say this suggests that domestication (living with humans) has changed how dogs vocalize.

Modern-day dogs descended from wolves tens of thousands of years ago. A team of researchers in Hungary looked at different dog breeds' genes (short sections of DNA, the chemical that carries all the information about a living thing's body and characteristics). They calculated how many genes each breed had in common with wolves. "Ancient" dog breeds, such as the Shiba Inu and the Siberian husky, were the most similar to wolves.

A wolf howling

The researchers then studied 68 dogs from 28 different breeds, some ancient and some modern. All the dogs had been known to howl sometimes, according to their owners. Each dog was brought into a lab, where a three-minute recording of wolf howls was played.

Dogs that were at least 5 years old and belonged to ancient breeds were more likely to respond to the wolf howls by howling themselves. Siberian huskies were the most likely to howl. The ancient breeds were also more likely to show signs of stress, such as shaking or scratching their bodies, when they heard the howls. This could be because wolves howl to warn others that they are entering their territory, and ancient breeds might still recognize the meaning behind the sound. "The dog howl may mean 'I am scared, don't come closer,'" said Fanni Lehoczki, an animal behavior researcher from Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary, who led the study.

Dog breeds less closely related to wolves, such as boxers and toy poodles, tended to bark rather than howling. But for young dogs under age 5, the dog's response to the howls did not vary by breed. The researchers say further study is required to figure out why, but it could be because older dogs are more cautious.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida and Mississippi

Spanning 160 miles and spread across two US states along the Gulf of Mexico, this national seashore has white sand beaches, marshy bayous, and beautiful islands. It is also home to historic forts, including one that was part of the Underground Railroad (a network that helped Black Americans escape slavery). One of the greenest parts of the park is the Naval Live Oaks Area in Florida, which has seven miles of hiking trails. Wildflowers and yaupon holly trees grow in the park, and animal lovers can see ospreys, leopard frogs, sea turtles, ghost crabs, and dolphins.

Five types of sea turtles live there.

ON THE MOVE
As groups of zebras migrate, they can form "super herds" of thousands of animals.

Zebras and wildebeests live in herds.

Sociable mammals might live longer

A study has found that mammals that live together survive longer. A team of scientists worked on a huge study of 974 different mammals, exploring their social lives and their average life spans.

The team divided the animals into three categories: those that live alone, those that live in pairs, and those that live in bigger groups. The results showed that species that live in groups, such as elephants and zebras, live longer than paired or solo mammals, such as aardvarks. This is true no matter how big or small the animals are. For example, short-tailed shrews are about the same weight as greater horseshoe bats, but the bats—which live in groups—live longer than the shrews.

The scientists concluded that the benefits of living together outweigh the negatives. In groups, diseases spread more easily and mammals have to compete more for food and mates, but they are less likely to be preyed on or starve. However, this difference might not affect the survival of the whole species, which is based more on reproducing a lot than living a long time.

Animal of the week: Anole lizard

Research shows that anole lizards in three cities in Puerto Rico have evolved to have features that anole lizards living outside cities don't have. These include longer legs for crossing open spaces and stickier toes for climbing smooth surfaces.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Two to seven years
- **HABITAT:** North and Central America
- **SIZE:** Up to 20 inches long
- **DIET:** Berries and insects
- **FUN FACT:** Some species of anole lizard can change color, from shades of brown to green.

Good week / Bad week

Golden lion tamarins
More than 300 golden lion tamarins in Brazil have been vaccinated (given a medicine that prevents illness) against the yellow fever virus. The population is recovering after the disease killed about a third of the wild monkeys in 2016.

Black swans
Scientists have found that the black swan faces more danger from diseases like avian flu than the white swan, its cousin. Black swans are missing genes (instructions for how living things develop) that would help fight off the diseases.

ASK A ZOOKEEPER: "What is the difference between a mouse and a rat?" Stella, 11, Tennessee

Kara Ingraham
Animal Keeper,
Smithsonian's National Zoo

Mice and rats are closely related and both are social, burrowing rodents. Rats are larger, with a more rounded nose and smaller ears. Despite often being thought of as pests, both can make great pets! Rats are more playful and can even learn tricks, while mice are usually more skittish and shy.

A wood mouse

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com.
Find out more about Smithsonian's National Zoo at nationalzoo.si.edu.

GETTY. IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (5)

A symbol of dreams

A world-famous landmark in California is a century old.

Above the city of Los Angeles, California, sits one of the world's most recognizable sights. The Hollywood sign is a cultural icon now, but it started as an expensive advertisement.

The original sign had 13 letters.

Hollywood history

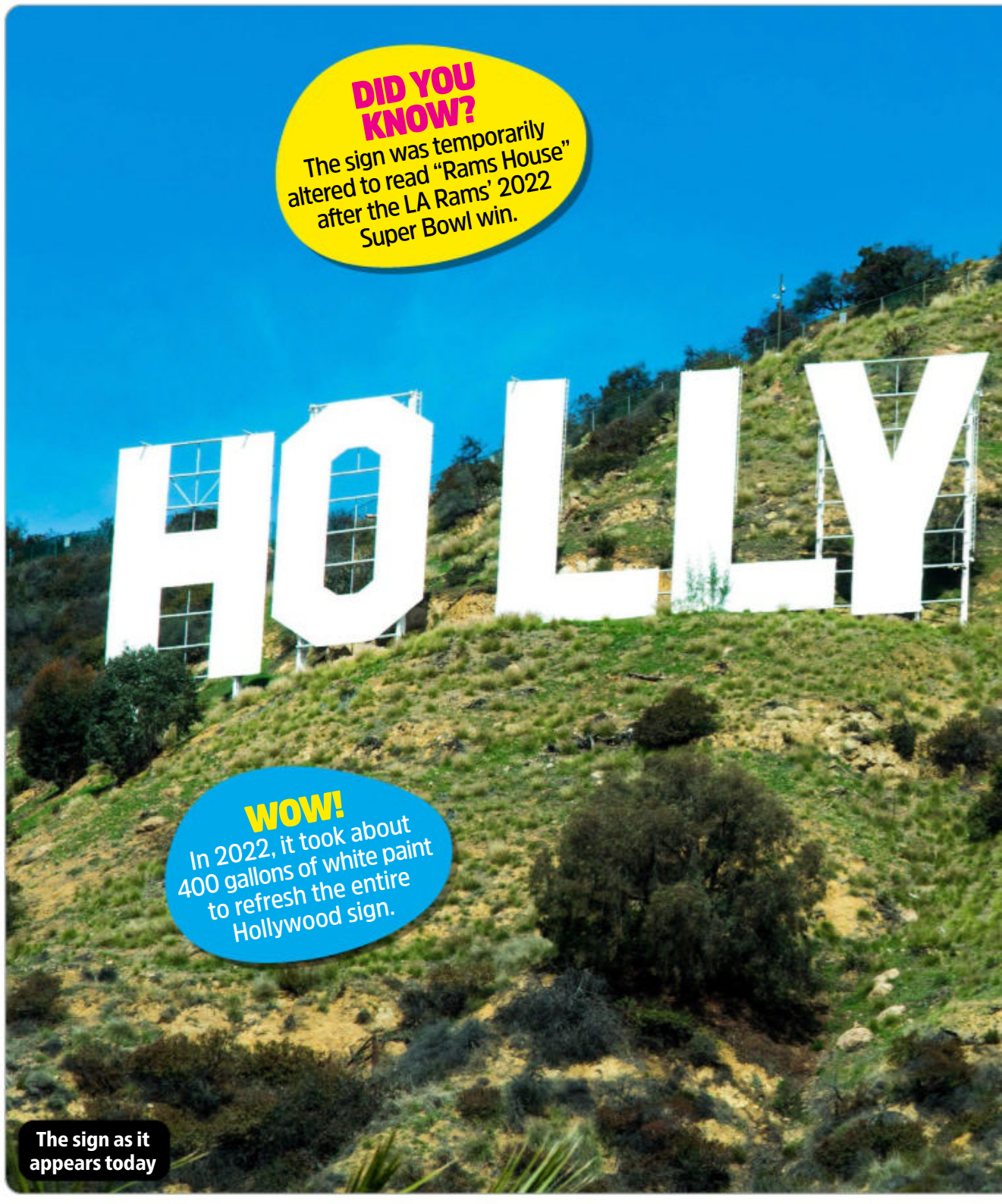
In 1887, a man named Harvey Wilcox owned land in Southern California. His wife suggested naming it "Hollywood." Sunny weather started drawing filmmakers to the area in the early 1900s, and by the 1920s it had become the entertainment capital of the US. In 1923, *Los Angeles Times* publisher Harry Chandler spent $21,000 to put a large sign on a peak called Mount Lee to advertise his real estate development. The sign read "Hollywoodland" and was intended to be temporary.

Workers touch up the sign.

Building a legend

To erect the sign on the mountain's steep slope, workers who had been hired for the project carried it up dirt paths in pieces. The white block letters, each about 30 feet wide and 45 feet tall and made of wood and sheet metal, were held up by telephone poles, scaffolding, pipes, and wires. The sign was also built with 4,000 light bulbs, which flashed each night. The bulbs were expensive to maintain, however, and in 1933 the lights were turned off.

DID YOU KNOW?
The sign was temporarily altered to read "Rams House" after the LA Rams' 2022 Super Bowl win.

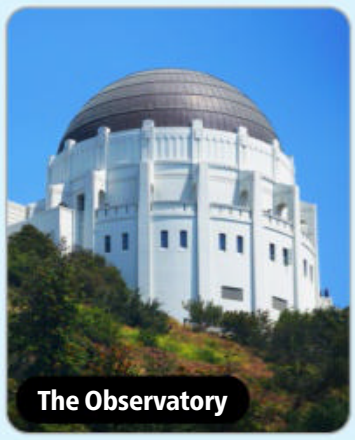


WOW!
In 2022, it took about 400 gallons of white paint to refresh the entire Hollywood sign.

The sign as it appears today

Hollywood hot spots

The Hollywood sign is one of several world-famous landmarks located in Southern California. Here are three more iconic sites in the area.


The Observatory

Griffith Observatory

High in the Hollywood Hills, east of the sign, sits the Griffith Observatory, which opened to the public in 1935. Visitors can get great views of the Pacific Ocean and Los Angeles and enjoy an incredible star show at night. The observatory is known for its round astronomy towers.

The Bowl

GETTY IMAGES (5); ALAMY (3)

for 100 years

FUN FACT
Los Angeles is called the City of Angels because Los Angeles means "the angels" in Spanish.

The space shuttle Endeavour flies by.

A striking symbol

At first local residents called the sign "an eyesore," but in time, affection for it grew. It became a symbol of the film industry, beckoning those dreaming of stardom to Los Angeles. In 1949, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce took over maintenance and ownership of the sign. The "H" had fallen and needed to be replaced, and the word "land" was removed. In 1973, the sign received Historic Landmark status from the City of Los Angeles. It was deteriorating with age, however, and was replaced in 1978 with letters made of corrugated steel. The sign has appeared in films like *The Muppet Movie* and *Superman*. In 2012, the space shuttle Endeavour did a special fly-by near the sign and other regional landmarks.

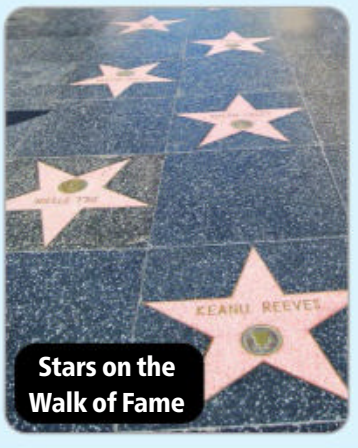
Actress Michelle Yeoh on a photo shoot

Celebrating a century

The Hollywood sign was recently cleaned and given a fresh coat of white paint to prepare for its 100th anniversary. The Hollywood Sign Trust, which protects and preserves the sign, plans to petition for it to get a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In the meantime, people can take photos with a smaller version of the sign that will be moved to different locations throughout Los Angeles. A film festival with movies featuring the Hollywood sign will also be part of the 100-year celebration, and the Hollywood Sign Trust is planning a birthday party on Hollywood Boulevard in December. "The sign is the pride of Los Angeles," said Jeff Zarrinnam, chair of the trust, "and we are excited for fans all around the world to see this makeover for a very special 100th anniversary."

Hollywood Bowl

The Hollywood Bowl celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022. It is an amphitheater (open-air venue) where well-known acts, including the Beatles, Elton John, and Gwen Stefani, have performed. It offers a view of the Hollywood sign high behind its famous white shell backdrop.



Stars on the Walk of Fame

Hollywood Walk of Fame

Visitors to Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street can stroll to spot some of the most famous names in the world. Sidewalks are lined with more than 2,700 pink and gold stars with celebrity names etched on them. Each year, more big names are honored with a star on the Walk of Fame.

Light pollution is created by the outdoor lights people use at night.

MYTHICAL NAME
The Milky Way is named after a myth in which the Greek goddess Hera sprays milk in the night sky.

Light is making stars disappear

Objects in the night sky are disappearing from view because of light pollution, according to a new study. Outdoor illumination from street lamps, neon signs, office buildings, and vehicle headlights lead to sky glow, which is when the night sky gets brighter. The brighter it is at night, the harder it is to see stars and planets from Earth.

Christopher Kyba, an astronomer (scientist who studies space, stars, and planets) with the GFZ German Research Center for Geosciences, was the study's lead author. He and his team analyzed 50,000 star observations made between 2011 and 2022. They concluded that the stars are becoming less visible each year because of increasing levels of light from towns and cities.

Baby sea turtles rely on moonlight.

"If the brightening of the night sky continues at the current rate," Kyba said, "a child born in a place where 250 stars are visible will only be able to see 100 stars by the time they turned 18."

The issue is global but particularly prevalent in North America, where 80% of people cannot see the Milky Way galaxy. This vast group of billions of stars should look like a wide strip of hazy light in the dark night sky. However, only very remote places, such as the Sahara desert and the Amazon rainforest, have a truly dark night sky.

Light pollution makes it harder for astronomers to study stars and planets. It also causes problems for animals. Nocturnal (active at night) animals like bats become confused and bump into objects. Turtles that hatch at night need moonlight to find the sea, but artificial lights can confuse them and make them head inland instead. Birds in cities often wake up and start singing earlier than they should.

Artificial light also causes animal and human bodies to produce less of a chemical called melatonin. This can lead to sleep problems, headaches, tiredness, and mood issues.

To help, scientists want to raise awareness of light pollution. They suggest that people use outdoor lighting that causes less light pollution, such as motion-sensitive lights that switch on only when they're needed. Through programs such as globeatnight.org, citizens can also share their observations of the night sky to help scientists understand what's going on.

Events in the night sky

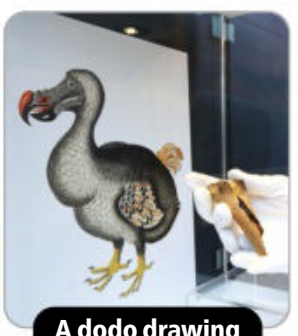
A comet

Many celestial events of interest to professional and amateur stargazers are coming up. In 2023, several meteor showers will occur when Earth passes through debris from comets and asteroids. The showers include the Lyrids, the Eta Aquarids, the Perseids, the Orionids, and the Geminids. The meteors in the Geminid shower move very fast—up to 78,000 mph.

In July, August, and September, there will be four supermoons, when the Moon is closest to Earth and appears brighter and larger. In October, an annular solar eclipse will occur when the Moon lines up with the Sun but doesn't cover it completely, creating a glowing circle. Later that month, the Moon will be partly obscured by Earth's shadow in a lunar eclipse.

Bringing a bird back from extinction

A company in Texas hopes to bring the dodo back from extinction. The dodo was a flightless bird from the island of Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean. Humans over-hunted them and destroyed their habitat, and they went extinct (no longer existed) around the late 1600s. Dodos became a symbol of the harm humans can do to nature. Today, only fossils and other remains of the bird exist.



A dodo drawing and fossil

Researchers at Colossal Biosciences plan to use a technique known as gene editing. They will take DNA (a chemical that carries the instructions for how a living thing will grow) from the dodo's closest living relative, the Nicobar pigeon, and change it so that it is like a dodo's. They plan to put the DNA into a pigeon's egg, creating a baby that, they believe, might look and behave like a dodo.

Colossal is also working to bring back other extinct animals, including the woolly mammoth and the Tasmanian tiger. Their technique has not been successful yet, and the dodo is their first attempt at bringing a bird back to life. The company said that although a revived dodo would not be an exact replacement for the extinct bird, their goal would be to return dodos to life in the wild in Mauritius.

Many scientists are against the idea of bringing extinct animals back to life. Boris Worm, from Dalhousie University in Canada, told Sky News, "Preventing species from going extinct in the first place should be our priority."

DID YOU KNOW?
Dodos had blue-gray feathers and were bigger than a modern turkey, weighing about 50 pounds.

Dodo birds, shown in an artist's rendering

The statue found in Rome

Hercules statue found in sewer

A life-size statue representing the mythological Roman god Hercules was unearthed during sewer repairs in Rome, Italy. Artifacts are often found when workers dig deep holes in the area.

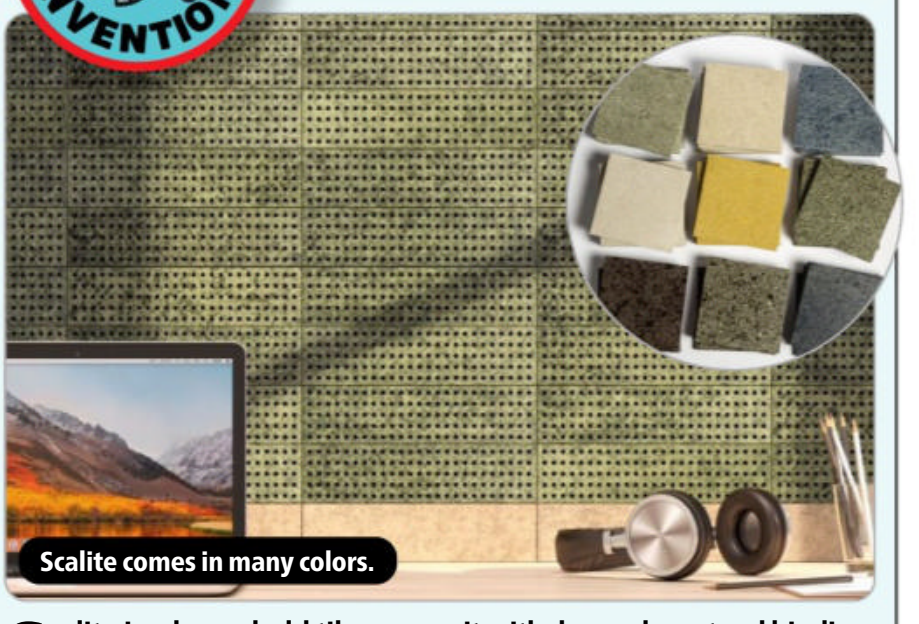
The statue is made of marble and dates back to the Roman Empire, which lasted from 27 BCE to 476 CE. It was found about 65 feet underground, beneath the Appian Way, an important road that ran from Rome to Brindisi in southeast Italy.

Archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people) say the statue is not of Hercules himself. Instead, they think it depicts an ancient emperor named Decius dressed as Hercules, wearing a lion's skin over his head. Hercules was said to have killed a lion for its skin.

Experts are now analyzing the statue to determine exactly how old it is and where it came from. They do not believe the Appian Way, where it was found, was its original home.

AMAZING INVENTION

Household tiles made of fish scales



Scalite comes in many colors.

Scalite is a household tile made almost entirely from discarded fish scales. The speckled, stonelike pieces can be used in place of traditional tile in businesses and homes.

The French company that makes Scalite processes the fish scales into powder and combines it with dye and a natural binding substance. The tiles are 99.5% recycled scales and free of toxic chemicals, glues, or other materials. They're biodegradable (able to break down), so if someone chooses to remove the tiles, they can be recycled rather than thrown away.

SHUTTERSTOCK (2); GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES; SHUTTERSTOCK; SCALE

Photos of the week

OCEAN ART UNDERWATER PHOTO CONTEST FINALISTS

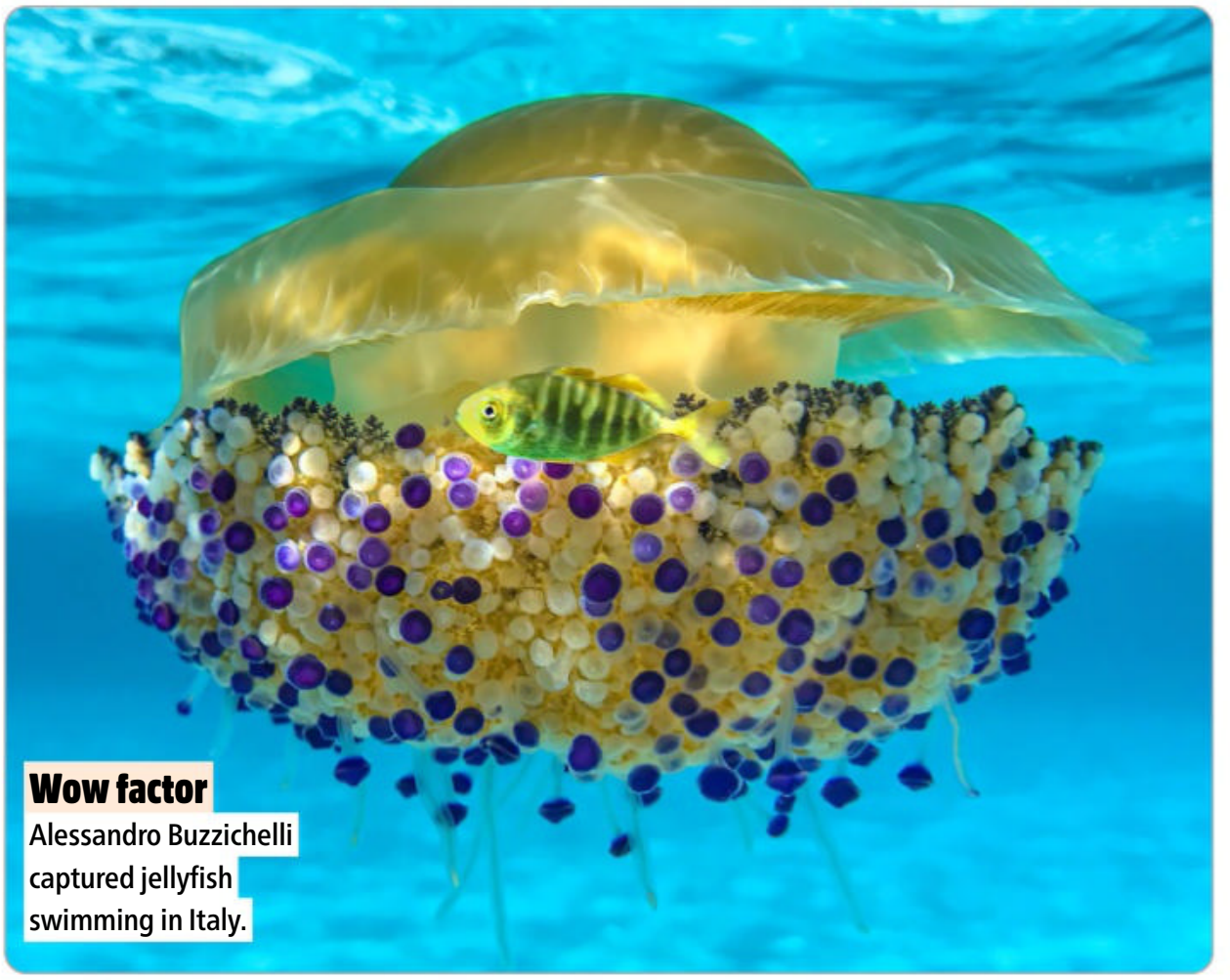
Eye spy
Kat Zhou shot this close-up of a nurse shark's eye in the Bahamas.

Staring contest
David Pleuvret took this photo of a blenny fish in the Indian Ocean.

KAT ZHOU; ALESSANDRO BUZZICHELLI; MARCELLO ZOF; DAVID PLEUVRET; SHERYL WRIGHT; YANNICK GOUGUENHEIM

Photos of the week

Floating along
A blanket octopus drifts off the shores of the Philippines in this image by Marcello Zof.



Wow factor
Alessandro Buzzichelli captured jellyfish swimming in Italy.

Sneak peek
Clownfish peep through an anemone in Australia in this shot by Sheryl Wright.

Hanging out
Yannick Gouguenheim snapped a marbled newt in France.

NATIONS ON ICE
The women's hockey teams from the US and Canada have played each other 174 times in international competitions.

Team USA playing Canada on February 22

Hockey history

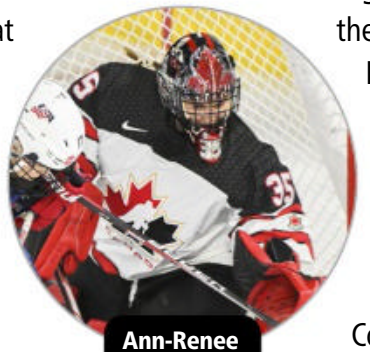
At the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan, the US women's team beat Canada to win their first Olympic gold medal. The victory inspired women and girls in the US to play hockey. Participation has since increased from about 27,000 registered female hockey players to more than 82,000.

US and Canada finish Rivalry Series

The 2022–23 Rivalry Series, a set of seven exhibition games between the women's national ice hockey teams from the US and Canada, has come to an end. The final game was played on February 22 at Place Bell in Laval, Quebec, in Canada. Team Canada won the game, 5–0, and as a result, they also won the series.

Going into Game 7, the teams were tied, 3–3. The Americans won the first three games in November, then the Canadians won the next four. Canada's comeback is what is called a reverse sweep.

The US and Canada are two of the world's top teams, and this was the third time the Rivalry Series has been played. Canada won it in 2018–19, and the US won it the following year. Last year, Canada beat the US in the gold medal game of the Beijing Olympics and the finals of the International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championship.



Ann-Renee Desbiens

Games 4 and 5 in this year's series were close, but Team Canada dominated Team USA, 5–1, in Game 6 on February 20 at Colisée Vidéotron in Trois-Rivières, Quebec. They continued their strong play in Game 7. Team USA generated several scoring chances early in the first period but were unable to get anything past Canadian goaltender Ann-Renee Desbiens. Ella Shelton opened the scoring for Canada late in the first period, building momentum for her team.

Canada's offense was on fire in the second period and racked up four goals. Blayre Turnbull scored twice in a 22-second span, while captain Marie-Philip Poulin and Victoria Bach each added one more. Desbiens made 25 saves in the win.

"It's always a battle between these two teams, and their goaltender shut the door tonight," US Women's National Team head coach John Wroblewski said after the game. "It's obviously not the way we wanted to close out the series, but we'll regroup and look ahead to April."

From April 5 to April 16, the 2023 Women's World Championship will take place in Ontario, Canada. The US and Canada will face each other on April 10.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

COLLEGE BASEBALL

On February 22, Mississippi State freshman Jurrangelo Cijntje made his first start in college baseball against the University of Louisiana Monroe. Cijntje, who is ambidextrous (can use his right and left hands equally well), threw pitches over 90 miles per hour with each arm, a major show of talent. He finished with seven strikeouts and held the opponents scoreless over four innings. His team won, 14–3.

Jurrangelo Cijntje

SKIING

Quinn Dehlinger, age 20, won silver in the men's aerial competition at the Freestyle World Ski Championships on February 23. He is the youngest American man to ever win an individual aerials medal at worlds.

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

The US Women's National Team beat Brazil, 2–1, on February 22 to win the SheBelieves Cup for the fourth straight time. They were undefeated in this year's tournament.

DID YOU KNOW?
Argentina beat France on penalty kicks in the 2023 FIFA World Cup.

Marcin Oleksy, left, scoring his award-winning goal

Awards given for soccer achievements

At an event in Paris, France, on February 27, the Best FIFA Football Awards 2022 were presented by the Federation Internationale de Football Association, the global governing body for soccer. The awards honor the best professional men's and women's players and coaches, plus specific achievements. A group of coaches, team captains, and journalists choose the winners.

One award, the FIFA Puskás Award, honors the most spectacular goal of the year. It was named after former Hungarian star Ferenc Puskás, one of the greatest players in soccer history. This year's award went to Marcin Oleksy, a Polish player with one leg, for a goal he scored last June. In an acrobatic feat, he balanced on one of his crutches and used a bicycle kick to direct an aerial cross from his teammate into the goal. Oleksy was the first amputee (person who has had a limb removed) to win the award.

There were 11 nominees for the Puskás Award. After voting by fans and an expert panel, three finalists were named: Olesky; Dimitri Payet, captain of Olympique de Marseille; and Brazilian star Richarlison (he uses one name).

The Best FIFA Men's Player award went to Lionel Messi of Argentina. He won for the seventh time, beating out French players Karim Benzema and Kylian Mbappé. The Best FIFA Women's Player was Spanish star Alexia Putellas, who also won last year. She beat out Alex Morgan of the US and Beth Mead of England.

To see videos of the 11 Puskás Award nominees, go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Puskas.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Musa Matiwane**

Team: **Brooklyn Bulldogs (baseball)**

"Musa is the best coach I have ever played under! He has helped me hone all my skills, from hitting to pitching to fielding to just about everything. He is able to calm everybody down before big games, and he has really helped us improve the mental aspect of our game so we can pick ourselves and our teammates up even when things go wrong!"
Johnny, 11, New York

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

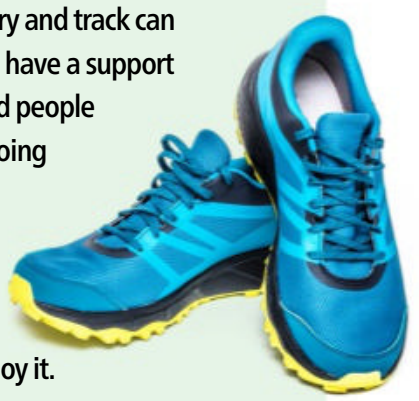
SPOTLIGHT ON...

Katelyn Mitchem

AGE: 22 SPORTS: CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Starting line My parents always ran for exercise, and my two older brothers started running in high school. That's how I got interested in cross country and track.

Special perks I like how with running, you get out as much as you put in. What's also nice is that cross country and track can be team sports, so you have a support system around you and people to run for, but you're doing it for yourself, too. My favorite thing is that you can run a good race that is physically hard and still really enjoy it.



Practice plan I usually run six to seven days a week. I've gotten up to 96 miles a week. When I have time, I like to rock climb for fun.

Brain benefit Running is good for my mental health. The more I run, the easier it is to focus.

Hitting a stride I've struggled with not having confidence my entire running career, and it's something I have finally started to overcome. I'm really proud of that. I had an indoor mile last year where I set the school record and a personal record. Before, I struggled so much not to psych myself out, and that was the first time I felt in control of a race. I realized that relaxing and not thinking about the race works.

Exciting event One fun race is the steeplechase (an obstacle course race). It has water jumps and hurdles. It's fun navigating all that.

Wise words A sport isn't going to be fulfilling unless you love it and want to do it for yourself.

CYFRASPORT/AMP FUTBOL POLSKA; UOW ATHLETICS; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: ARIANNE BERGERON / HHOF-IIHF IMAGES; AP (2); GETTY IMAGES

FUN FACT
The Cinderella story most people know is based on a French story called *Cendrillon*, written in 1697.

Morgan Higgins, left, and Sami Gayle in Bad Cinderella

New Cinderella musical

The Broadway show Bad Cinderella **is a twist on the classic fairy tale, with music by theater legend Andrew Lloyd Webber.**

A ward-winning British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has a new musical on Broadway in New York City. *Bad Cinderella* is a modern take on the classic Cinderella story. It is currently in preview performances (a time when finishing touches are put on a show) and will officially open on March 23.

The show, which used to be titled *Cinderella*, opened in London in 2021. It was well liked but closed after less than a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The production was slightly reworked before coming to Broadway. It features a revolving stage, a set that looks like a pop-up storybook, and colorful costumes.

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Bad Cinderella keeps some elements of the traditional fairy tale, but it has a new theme. "This is a story that celebrates being different," Sami Gayle, who plays stepsister Adele, told *The Week Junior*. As for Cinderella, the character has "grit," Gayle said. "This is not a princess that needs saving. She knows who she is and isn't afraid to communicate that."

Cinderella's stepsisters have their own story arcs in the show. Adele learns to stop caring about status. Her sister, Marie, also undergoes changes. She learns about "being your own person," Morgan Higgins, who plays Marie, told *The Week Junior*. Higgins and Gayle are excited for audiences to see the show—not just because of how fun it is but also because of its messages. "We forget that fairy tales are supposed to teach us lessons," Higgins said. "Our show does that."

More by Andrew Lloyd Webber

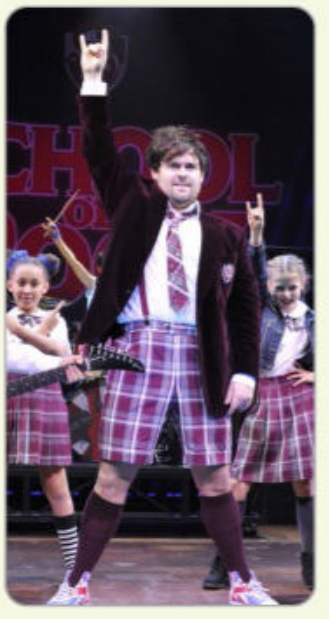
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

A biblical story inspired this musical comedy. It was originally written for children to perform at a school concert.

Cats

The award-winning musical was based on *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, a book of poems by T.S. Eliot. The original Broadway show ran for 18 years. It has been translated into 15 languages and performed in 39 countries.

School of Rock: The Musical

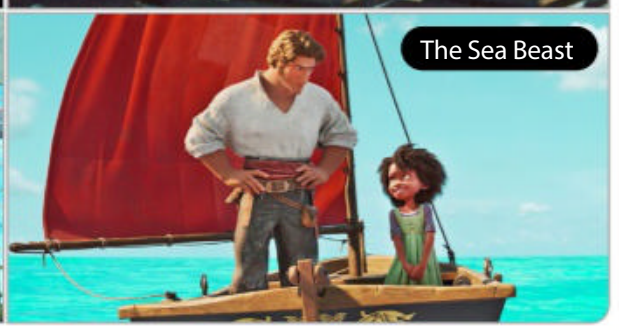


This show, based on the film of the same name, is about a musician who poses as a teacher and starts a rock band with his students. It opened on Broadway in 2015 and closed in 2019. The show's cast featured 17 young performers.

Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio

Marcel the Shell with Shoes On

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish


The Sea Beast

Preview of top film prizes

On March 12, the most prestigious prizes in the film industry will be awarded at the 95th annual Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars. Categories include acting, writing, special effects, and music. The ceremony will be held at the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles, California, and broadcast on ABC at 8 pm ET.

One major category at the Oscars is Best Animated Feature. The nominee that is favored to win is *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio*, Netflix's stop-motion take on the classic children's story. On February 19, it won the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award for best animated film. *Pinocchio*'s director, Guillermo del Toro, has won two previous Oscars. Another nominee that has received honors recently is the stop-motion live-action hybrid film *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On*. The other nominated films are *The Sea Beast*, *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish,* and *Turning Red.*

Turning Red

In the Best Animated Short category, the frontrunner is Apple TV+'s *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse.* It is based on a best-selling book of the same name by British illustrator and artist Charlie Mackesy. It won the BAFTA for British animated short film.

Most of the films and stars nominated for other awards might not be recognizable to kids, but a few may be familiar. The sci-fi blockbuster *Avatar: The Way of Water* is up for Best Picture, while Angela Bassett, who played Queen Ramonda in Marvel's *Black Panther* sequel, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, is nominated for Best Supporting Actress. She is the first person to be nominated for an acting Oscar for a role in a Marvel film.

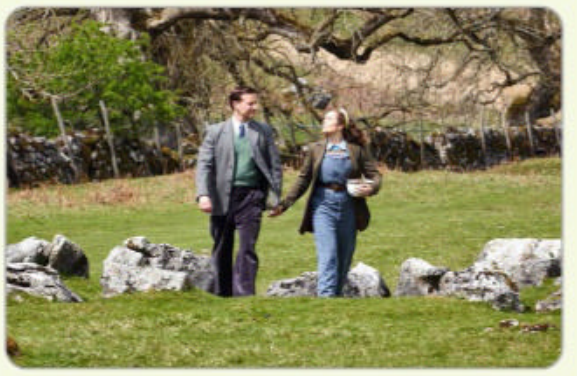
READER RECOMMENDS

The Adam Project (Netflix) PG-13

"This is my favorite movie because it is about time travel and a kid going on an adventure with his future self. The main character is Adam Reed, a boy who likes to explore and play video games and who is bullied for being short for his age. One day, a spaceship from the future crashes in the forest outside his home, and it's carrying Adam's adult self. Grown-up Adam is on a mission to stop a woman who stole time travel technology from his dad. This is the best movie I've watched because of the plot and characters you really care about." Ryder, 13, Colorado

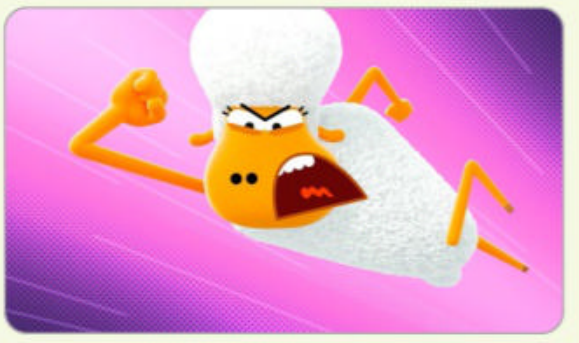
Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



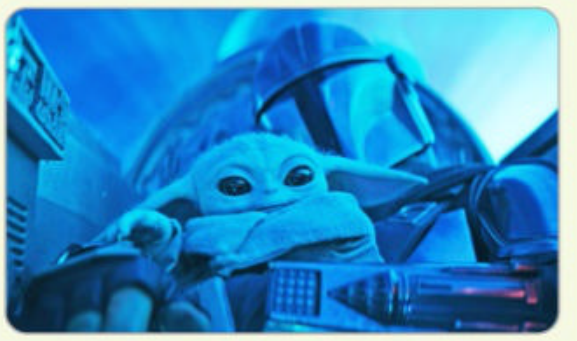
All Creatures Great and Small
(PBS)

This hit series is based on the best-selling books by James Herriot, a veterinarian who worked in the English countryside in the 1930s. In the third season, James and his partners in Darrowby deal with sick animals, quirky farmers, and government restrictions.



Karate Sheep
(Netflix)

A lively sheep named Trico, whose wild ideas cause chaos among his flock, is at the center of this new animated comedy series. When a hungry wolf looms nearby, Trico and his best friend step up to protect the other sheep with their karate skills and high-tech gadgets.



The Mandalorian
(Disney+)

The bounty hunter the Mandalorian and the Child (otherwise known as Baby Yoda) are back for season three of the popular sci-fi series. Their journey through the *Star Wars* galaxy continues as they avoid the authority of the New Republic and cross paths with friends and enemies.

NETFLIX (3); A24; DREAMWORKS ANIMATION/UNIVERSAL PICTURES; DISNEY/PIXAR; HELEN WILLIAMS/PLAYGROUND ENTERTAINMENT; COURTESY OF NETFLIX; LUCASFILM LTD.; ON LEFT PAGE: MICHAELAH REYNOLDS; GETTY IMAGES (4)

Kirby's Return to Dream Land Deluxe

Kirby stars in updated game

Kirby's Return to Dream Land Deluxe is a new platform adventure game. It has been released exclusively for the Nintendo Switch.

Kirby, a round, pink hero, has been starring in video games since 1992. This new release is a remake of a hit game called Kirby's Return to Dream Land, which was released for the Nintendo Wii in 2011. Nearly every aspect of the original game, including the graphics and gameplay, has been improved for the new version.

One aspect of Return to Dream Land that hasn't changed is the plot. The first half of the game is set on Planet Popstar, where Kirby lives with his friends King Dedede, Meta Knight, and Bandana Waddle Dee. When a spaceship crashes down, the group meets an alien named Magolor. He tells them that if they can help him find pieces of his ship on Popstar, he'll give them a tour of his home planet. But there's a twist: Magolor isn't telling the whole truth.

Kirby

What makes Kirby a great character are his many different abilities. He can inflate himself and float across the screen, and he also can suck up enemies and copy their special powers and weapons. The Deluxe version gives him many new abilities, including one that creates powerful sandcastles. To add to the excitement, the game can be played by up to four players at one time.

Along with the main game, there are other fun challenges and modes to play. Merry Magoland has subgames such as Samurai Kirby and Checkerboard Chase. There is also a Magolor Epilogue story, where you can play as the alien trying to get home.

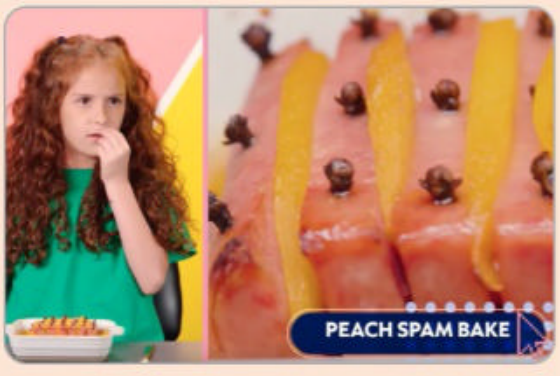
PODCAST OF THE WEEK

THE DR. EPICOPOLIS & 1102 SHOW OF SHOWS

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, iHeartRadio

In this comedy series, supervillain scientist Dr. Epicopolis, who calls himself "genius of all evil," plots to destroy Earth's superheroes. He's assisted by his loyal sidekick 1102, whose foolishness often spoils the plans.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK



KIDS TRY VINTAGE RECIPES

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-KidsReact

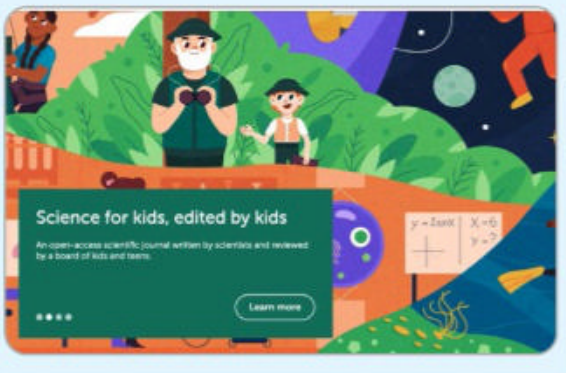
See what happens when kids try food recipes dating as far back as the 1930s. The dishes they taste include jellied meatloaf, Snickers salad, and pickled cheesecake. Afterward, they learn about the ingredients in the recipes by watching a popular TikTok creator make them.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

FRONTIERS FOR YOUNG MINDS

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Frontiers

This award-winning site has articles by top scientists about their big discoveries. Each piece is written especially for kids and reviewed by kids before it's published. You can learn about a reef off the coast of Australia, what fruit flies can teach people about the environment, and more.

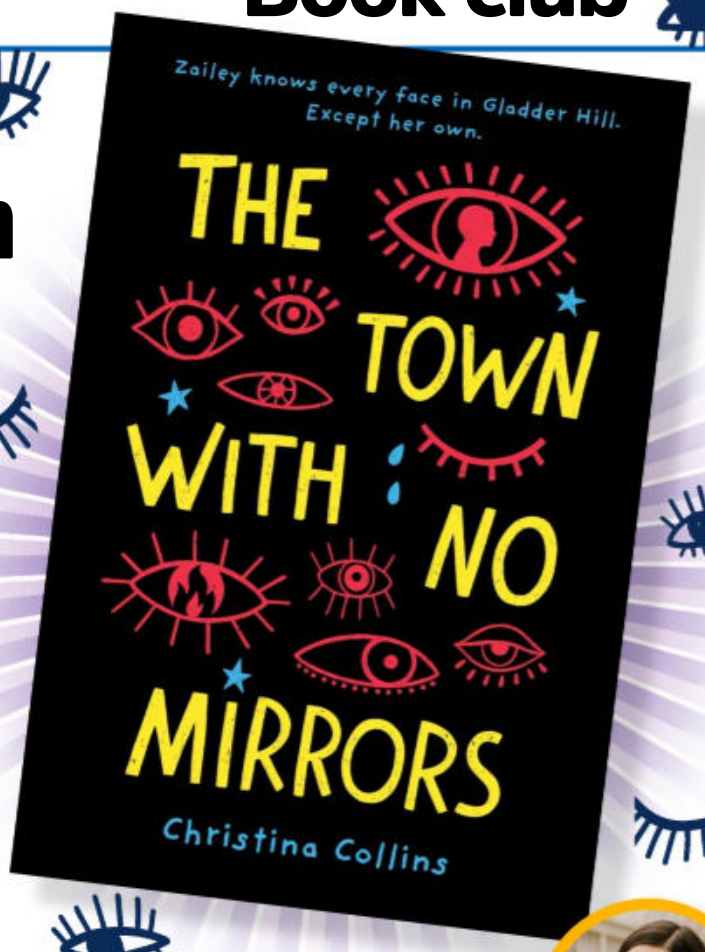


NINTENDO (2); WONKYBOT; @KIDSREACT VIA YOUTUBE; FRONTIERS MEDIA

BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Town with No Mirrors

By Christina Collins
(Sourcebooks Young Readers)



The small town of Gladder Hill doesn't allow residents to have mirrors. People also can't own glass or other objects that would allow them to see their reflection. Zailey, a sixth grader, is curious about what her face looks like. She draws other people's faces, hoping they'll give her clues about her own appearance. She hides her sketches because "superficial thoughts" aren't allowed. Zailey and a friend make a pact to draw each other. Then something happens that changes Zailey's life forever. Will she ever see her face in a mirror? Or will she stop caring? Like *The Hunger Games*, the genre of this novel is dystopian (a society where there is suffering or injustice). It makes you think about the positives and negatives of living in a society where appearances don't matter.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *The Town with No Mirrors*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with Mirrors in the subject line. Enter by midnight on March 24. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Christina Collins

We spoke to the author of *The Town with No Mirrors*.

Were you a curious child like Zailey?
I was more shy than Zailey, but I had a thirst for knowledge and was curious about places outside my small town.

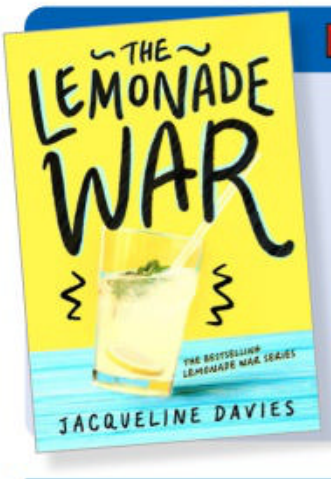
What is appealing about dystopian novels?
They allow readers to experience societies unlike the one we live in. They can inspire readers to ask themselves what they would do if they found themselves faced with difficult decisions.

What did you want to be while growing up?
I dreamed of performing on Broadway, and I also wanted to be a filmmaker.

What do you like to do for fun?
Explore castles in Ireland, which is where I live now.

Favorite place to visit?
It's a tie between Wales, for its castles, and Prince Edward Island, which is the setting of one of my favorite books, *Anne of Green Gables*.

READER RECOMMENDS



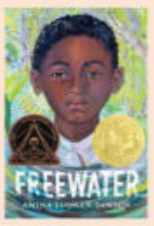
The Lemonade War *By Jacqueline Davies*

"Evan hates that he and his sister, Jessie, are in the same grade at school. Jessie is younger but she is a genius, as his grandma puts it. They decide that whoever sells the most lemonade will get to keep all the money they make. It was interesting seeing the sibling rivalry unfold. The comedy and the situations they find themselves in may remind you of the Ramona and Beezus books." Landon, 10, Pennsylvania

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

4 Coretta Scott King book award winners

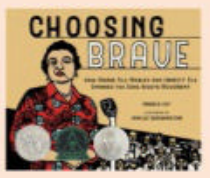
Freewater won the top author award, and the others were named honor books.



Freewater

By Amina Luqman-Dawson
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

This Coretta Scott King Author Award winner is about a boy who escapes slavery on a plantation with his sister and travels through a swampland to reach Freewater, a community created by formerly enslaved people. Will they be able to save their mother too? This historical fiction novel is hard to put down. *Ages 10 and up*



Choosing Brave

By Angela Joy, illustrated by Janelle Washington
(Roaring Brook Press)

This picture book is about civil rights advocate Mamie Till-Mobley (1921–2003) and it was honored for its paper collage illustrations. Her son was killed while visiting Mississippi in 1955. Find out how she fought for equality despite her sadness. *Ages 8–12*

Star Child

By Ibi Zoboi
(Dutton Books for Young Readers)

This biography of award-winning science fiction writer Octavia Estelle Butler (1947–2006) is told through a mix of various types of poetry and prose. Honored for its writing, the book includes photos from Butler's childhood and a copy of a story she wrote when she was young. *Ages 10 and up*

Swim Team

By Johnnie Christmas
(HarperAlley)

Honored for its illustrations, this graphic novel explores the world of competitive swimming. Bree, a math whiz, switches schools and the only elective available is swimming. But she doesn't know how to swim. After a rough start, Bree's determination takes her to places she never imagined. *Ages 8–12*

BOOKS: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: COURTESY CHRISTINA COLLINS; GETTY IMAGES

GARDEN HELPERS
Earthworms are called "nature's plows." By breaking up soil, they help water reach plants.

Plan your spring garden

Get ready for the planting season with these easy tips.

Spring is nearly here, making now a good time to start planning a vegetable or flower garden. There is some fun and creative work to do before you'll be ready to put your first plants in the ground. Here's how to get started.

Sketch it out

Whether you and your family want to plant a new garden this spring or adjust one you already have, you can start by sketching out a plan for it. First, head outside with a tape measure and measure your existing garden or the area where you'd like to plant a new one. Use these measurements to draw an outline of the garden on graph paper. Add plants that are already there, such as shrubs, trees, and perennials (plants that bloom every year). Next, pencil in what you'd like to plant this year. Maybe you want to add flowers in colors you love or some of your favorite vegetables. You can also check your local library for books about plants that grow well in your area. Or bring your drawing to a garden center and ask for help.

Consider a theme

If you're feeling undecided about what you want in your garden, you can use a theme to guide you. For example, some people plant butterfly or pollinator bee gardens that include flowers that these insects like to be around. If you want to plant vegetables, you could do a "pizza garden" that includes ingredients like tomatoes, basil, and oregano. You can use the theme for your whole garden or just a section.

Prep the space

It's important to wait to plant your garden until the last frost has occurred in your area. Depending on where you live, this can vary from now until late May. You can ask the staff at the garden center for advice or check the website almanac.com. Even if it's not time to plant, you can start working on the soil as long as it isn't too wet from snow melt or winter rains. Begin by clearing out any debris, like sticks, leaves, dead plants, and weeds, that may have ended up in the garden since last year. You can also start raking the soil so it's nice and loose for your plants when you're ready to put them into the ground.

Pick what you plant.

Start your plants

If you want to grow some of your plants from seeds, plant the seeds inside in small containers and place them on a sunny windowsill. Once they sprout and the ground is warm enough for you to plant outside, you can transplant them into your garden. Another option is to buy small plants at a garden center to plant directly into the ground. You'll soon be able to enjoy all the flowers or vegetables that you grew yourself!

4 easy plants you can grow

These plants are perfect for beginners because they're simple to care for.

Cherry tomatoes

Since cherry tomatoes are small, they grow and ripen relatively fast. This plant also does just as well in a container on a stoop or deck as it does in a full garden.

Sunflowers

Options for these flowers range from small types that do well in pots to giant varieties that grow 14 feet high. These large yellow flowers thrive in many different environments and tend to grow quickly.

Lamb's ear

This hardy, silvery-green plant gets its name from its soft fuzzy leaves, which resemble a lamb's ear. Lamb's ear works well as a border in a garden or in a pot with more colorful flowers.

Marigolds

These cheerful, fast-growing flowers thrive in sunny spots with almost any type of soil. They can withstand hot temperatures and will bloom for most of the summer.

MAKE CANDLES IN GLASS JARS

Candles can help a space feel cozy, and they're fun to make with these instructions and an adult's help.

1. **Gather supplies.** You'll need small, clean glass jars with the labels removed. You'll also need wicks (the string you light on the candle) as well as wax flakes, available at crafting stores or online.
2. **Prep and pour.** Cut a piece of wick that is the same length as the height of the jar. Center one end of the wick inside, and thread the other end through a craft stick with a hole in the middle. Set the stick on top of the open jar. Have an adult help you melt the wax flakes according to package directions. Together, carefully pour the wax into the jars. Fill the jars to an inch below the top, and let harden before removing the craft stick.
3. **Enjoy safely.** Keep the candles in a common area of your home, like the kitchen, but never in your bedroom. Enjoy lighting them with an adult's permission, but always blow them out before leaving the room.

FUN FACT
The longest strand of pasta, measuring more than 12,000 feet, was made in Japan in 2010.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the oven.

Bake up butternut squash and feta pasta

Ingredients

- 1 pound cubed butternut squash (you can buy it precut)
- 3 shallots, trimmed and quartered
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 8 ounces feta cheese in a block shape
- 1 pound pasta (such as rigatoni or penne)
- 1 cup baby spinach

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400° F. Cut any large cubes of squash into bite-size pieces. In a large baking dish, combine the squash, shallots, and thyme. Drizzle with 3 tablespoons of the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Toss ingredients together to coat.
2. Nestle the whole block of feta cheese into the center of the dish and drizzle with the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil. With an adult's help, put the dish into the oven. Bake uncovered until the squash and shallots are tender and golden, 35 to 40 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, cook the pasta according to the package directions until it's al dente (firm). Drain pasta, reserving ½ cup of the pasta water.
4. Add the cooked pasta into the squash mixture and toss together to combine, adding the reserved pasta water a little at a time to loosen the sauce, as necessary.
5. Stir in baby spinach until just wilted.
6. Season dish to taste with salt and freshly ground pepper, and serve hot. Makes 4–6 servings.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK: REUSE OLD NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers and advertisements that get delivered or come in the mail can quickly stack up. To get more life out of them and cut down on the use of other types of paper, consider the many ways they can be used at home. They're great for cleaning windows, for example, and they don't leave smudges or streaks the way paper towels sometimes do. If you have wet boots or sneakers, ball up newspaper and stuff it inside. Leave the paper in overnight to soak up moisture, then discard it in the morning. Newspapers are also handy for crafts. You can use them for paper-mache projects or cut out photos or words for collages.

Save papers for art projects.

ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; GETTY IMAGES (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzles

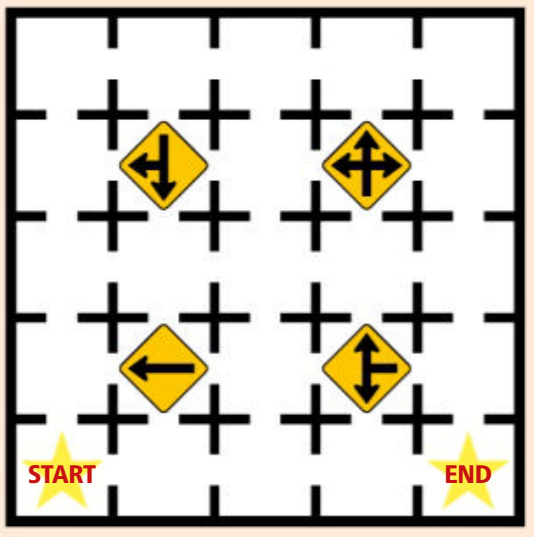
Word ladder

To change the word HALL into the word PASS, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.

	H A L L
Season also known as autumn ▶	
Attempt unsuccessfully ▶	
Lining for a baking sheet ▶	
Birds like chickens, ducks, and turkeys ▶	
Soup is served in it ▶	
Fancy ribbons on presents ▶	
Person in charge of employees ▶	
___ guitar (instrument that plays the lowest notes) ▶	
	P A S S

DETOURS

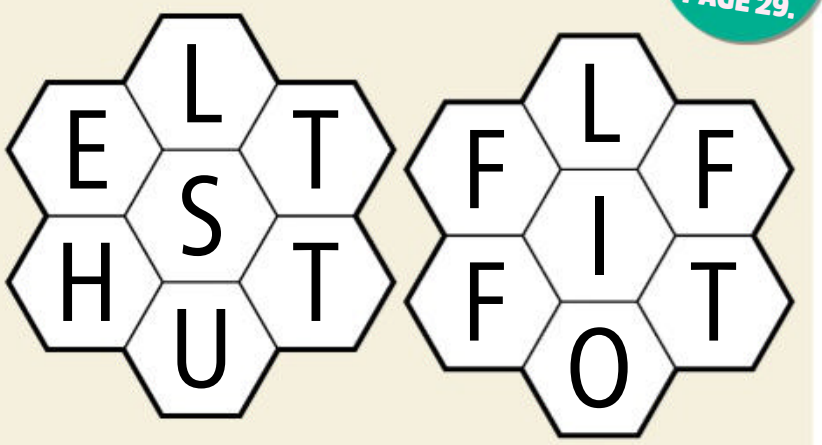
Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every single square without crossing itself. For squares with signs, you may only enter at the arrow's base, and you may only make a turn in the direction of an arrow shown.



STEPPING STONES

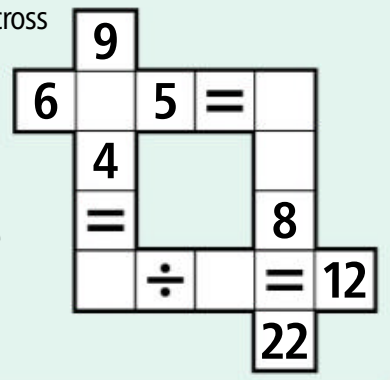
ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Each figure hides a seven-letter word associated with space exploration. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once.



Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, −, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



Spot the difference

These two pictures of Chicago appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY; GETTY IMAGES (2)

Crossmath hint: Every symbol will be used here except the plus sign.

That's unbelievable!

Where has this bean all our lives?

A beanbag chair you can wear

The Japanese brand Takikou Sewing has designed a wearable beanbag to help people feel cozy wherever they are. The suit is supposed to make it easy for wearers to switch between walking, sitting, lying down, and even rolling around, all while feeling cushioned and comfortable. A company spokesperson said, "This concept was born out of the idea of a cushion that would allow you to totally let go, anytime, anywhere." The bags come in three sizes, so the whole family can give them a try.

Surprise in the subway

A cat that spent two weeks inside the London Underground subway system in the UK has been found dusty but safe. After Mr. Jingles was reported missing several weeks ago, station staff heard him meowing in the tunnels and saw him looking for food on the platform at night. Station manager David Nobbs said, "I've been working on the London Underground for 16 years and you get all walks of life coming through, but never before a cat on the loose."

Mr. Jingles went underground.

The catch was uncommon.

Fisherman's rare find

Jacob Moore, a fisherman in Virginia, caught an unusual largemouth bass with golden scales. These freshwater fish are usually dark green, but this one had a mutation that turned its scales yellow. A Virginia wildlife official said that a golden largemouth is a "one-in-a-million fish." Moore took a few photos of the 16-inch catch before returning it to the river.

Real or fake?

Did a dog ring the doorbell?

She knew her way around

A Texas family was worried when their dog Bailey, a husky mix they had recently adopted, got spooked and ran away from home. They contacted the Animal Rescue League of El Paso, which had previously cared for Bailey, to tell the staff she was missing. Three days later, Bailey showed up at the shelter and made her presence known. "I'll be darn," said founder Loretta Hyde. "At 1:42 in the morning she's ringing the doorbell." Is this story real, or have we led you a-stray?*

Bob Baker sporting one of his 'staches

The most marvelous mustaches

Bob Baker began growing an impressive mustache in 2018, when a coworker dared him to go a year without shaving. Since then, Baker has entered the National Beard and Mustache Championships three times and won first place in two categories. Baker says that styling the 'stache has become "a passion." Each morning, he spends 20 minutes shaping his facial hair into various shapes using a special wax. He also shares tips on care and upkeep with more than a million fans on social media. His advice: "Be you, be genuine, and let your passions flow."

*Real! Bailey walked about 10 miles to reach the shelter and rang the doorbell to be let in. "These dogs are smarter than people give them credit for," Loretta Hyde said. Bailey was reunited with her owners and is enjoying her new home.

REUTERS; SHUTTERSTOCK; MR JINGLES; VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES; BOB BAKER; ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF EL PASO

Your turn

Editor's note

On December 28, 1973, the 37th US President, Richard Nixon, signed an important piece of legislation: the Endangered Species Act (p2). This year marks the 50th anniversary of that law. Thanks to the protections it guarantees, many fish, wildlife, and plant species have been saved from extinction. These include the four animals on this week's cover: the bald eagle, El Segundo blue butterfly, green sea turtle, and Southern sea otter. The celebration of the law's success—and the effort to find ways to strengthen it—will continue all year. One way to celebrate is by entering the Endangered Species Coalition's art contest. Two or more kids can work on a project together, and the deadline is April 21. (Find out more at endangered.org/esa50collaborative.) If you enter, we'd love to hear about it! Please let us know at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

Selling healthy puppy treats for a cause

Grace, 8, with Jameson, 7, Texas

"In February, I sold healthy, homemade dog treats so I could feed nutritious food to dogs in my neighborhood and raise funds for the San Antonio Zoo. I looked at the ingredients in the treats we bought for our dogs, Frankie and Rory, and found some byproducts and fillers. I searched for recipes and made 'Bow Wow Bites' (oats, peanut butter, pumpkin purée) and 'Zoo'kies (egg, honey, oats, peanut butter, pumpkin purée). I wanted to raise money for the San Antonio Zoo because they have done a lot for our community and the world. I raised $2,258 as of February 17. All the profits will go to the zoo. After this fundraiser, I am going to try to start my own business and continue to give a portion to charity."

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Why is everyone so tired on April 1st?

We just finished a 31-day March!

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Kaboom!

This organization's goal is to ensure that all children have access to safe and exciting play spaces. It works with local communities to create kid-designed playgrounds in areas where there is not enough access to dedicated play spaces. Since the group was founded in 1996, it has developed more than 17,000 play spaces benefiting more than 11 million kids across the US. Find out more at kaboom.org.

NATIONWIDE CONTEST OPPORTUNITY

The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site has launched a contest for middle schoolers called Project POTUS (President of the United States). Students in grades 6–8 are invited to create a video of one minute or less that represents one of the 45 US Presidents. This is an opportunity to put your research, writing, and video skills to use. You can find out more about the contest, including when and how to apply, at bhpsite.org/project-potus.

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.

"Thank you for recommending The Vanderbeekers book series! I enjoyed reading all six of them! I loved reading the books so much I finished the series while at Legoland!" Ben, 8, California

"This soup from *The Week Junior* is the best soup in the universe!" Eloise, 11, Colorado

"I've been reading *The Week Junior* for a few weeks now and I love them!" Ellin, 8, New Jersey

POPJAM

PopJam announced that it will be shutting down on March 8, so this will be the last time we publish this column in *The Week Junior*. To all who joined our PopJam community: Thank you and we will miss you! Keep in touch with us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

We asked: What is your favorite vegan or vegetarian food?

"I love a berry smoothie with vegan ice cream blended in."

"Salads, because they are healthy and delicious."

"Blueberries are my favorite!"

In the big debate, we asked: Are e-books better than real books?

"No. Real books are just the real thing and it doesn't feel the same."

"Yes, because more books are available to you digitally."

"No. Screens can damage the eye, and a real book has more emotional value. It can be passed through family and friends."

"No, because you can keep reading a real book, but if your device runs out of battery, you can't read for a while."

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Giddings**

School: **Ecker Hill Middle School**

"Mr. Giddings is an amazing music and band director! He has an amazing sense of humor. Whenever we mess up a song, he lets us try again. He plays it himself and tells us what to fix. He is so inspiring. Once a girl messed up and she was really sad. Mr. Giddings then gave us a really nice speech, and at the end he said that everyone in the band matters. Because of him, I will love band forever."

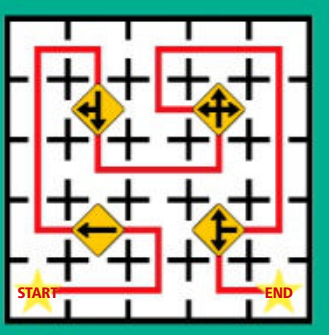
Aiden, 11, Utah

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word ladder

hall
fall
fail
foil
fowl
bowl
bows
boss
bass
pass



Stepping stones
shuttle, liftoff

		9		
6	×	5	=	30
4				−
=				8
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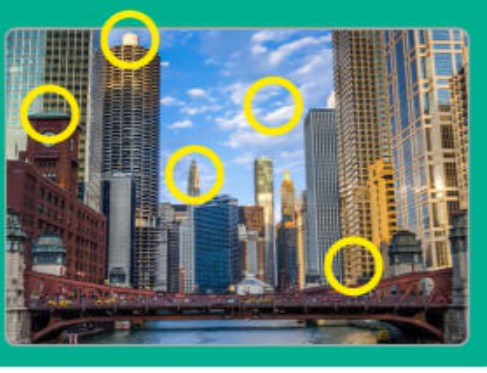

Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 Planet Popstar **2** a) New York **3** True **4** c) *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio* **5** False. It hung in a government building in New Jersey. **6** Hercules **7** True **8** b) 2007 **9** Rewilding **10** b) *Cinderella* **11** Brazil **12** True **13** c) Yellow fever **14** Balloons **15** a) Cat

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We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 In the video game Kirby's Return to Dreamland, what is the name of Kirby's home planet?

2 Gustavo Dudamel is set to become the first Hispanic leader of which city's orchestra?

a) New York b) Los Angeles c) Chicago

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? Mammals that live in groups, like zebras, live longer than animals that live alone or in pairs.

True ☐ False ☐

4 Which movie won the British Academy of Film and Television Arts award for best animated film?

a) The Sea Beast b) Turning Red
c) Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 True or false? A recently restored portrait of Abraham Lincoln used to hang in a government building in Illinois.

True ☐ False ☐

6 A statue representing what Roman god was found during sewer repair work in Rome, Italy?

7 True or false? The Hollywood sign was originally lit up with 4,000 light bulbs.

True ☐ False ☐

8 In what year were bald eagles removed from the endangered species list?

a) 1997 b) 2007 c) 2017

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5

15

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

7

11

8

9 What is the name for the process of letting developed land return to its natural state?

10 Legendary Broadway composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has a new musical based on which fairy tale?

a) Snow White
b) Cinderella
c) The Little Mermaid

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 Which team did the US women's national soccer team beat to win their fourth straight SheBelieves Cup?

12 True or false? Outdoor lighting is making stars in the night sky less visible.

True ☐ False ☐

13 Golden lion tamarins in Brazil were recently vaccinated against what disease?

a) Rabies b) Smallpox c) Yellow fever

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 To protect the environment, the city of Laguna Beach, California, recently banned what object?

15 What type of animal was found safe after spending two weeks in the London Underground subway system?

a) Cat b) Dog c) Rabbit

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

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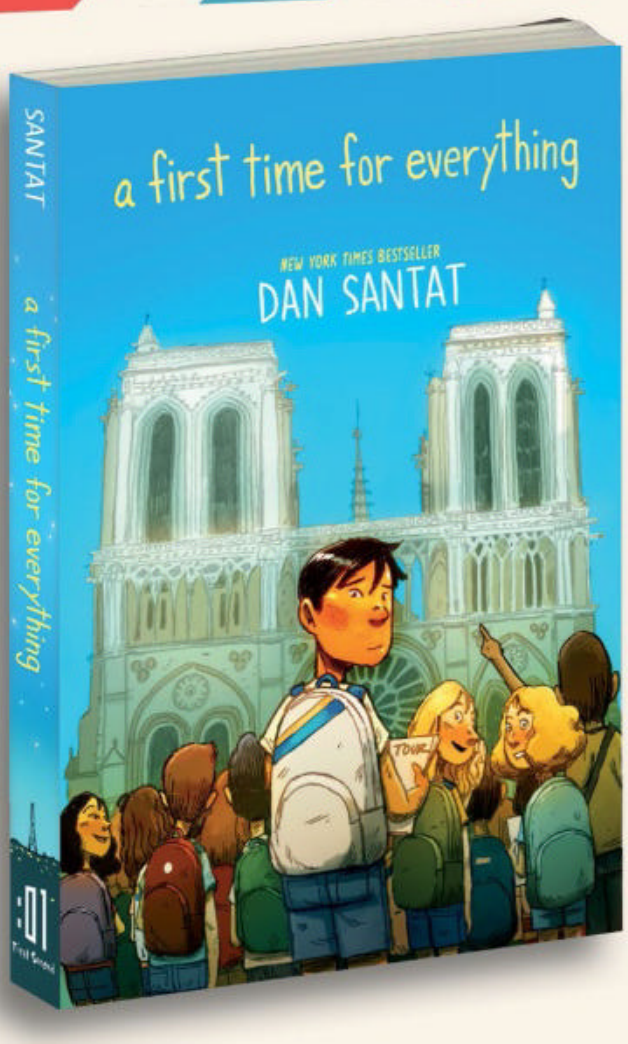

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